

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM  
VEGETATIVE COVER FOR PRACTICES  
OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> SIGN-UP

HAS THE CONCURRENCE OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE - MISSISSIPPI  
U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE - MISSISSIPPI  
JANUARY 2000

NATIONAL RANKING FACTOR N1 - WILDLIFE HABITAT COVER BENEFITS  
Subfactor (a) – Cover Matrix

Mississippi CP/Cover Matrix

Often, during establishment of cover, 1 cover species will dominate. Therefore, evaluate this subfactor based on the cover expected to become established and not on species planted. NRCS shall only allow those covers that are suitable for the site designated for the offer. Eligible species for cover are listed in Table 1-CRP Eligible Plants and Table 2-CRP Eligible Trees.

Practice <u>1</u> /	Assigned Point Score
CP1 Permanent introduced grasses and legumes.	
Planting one or more species of introduced grass. <u>2</u> /	10
Planting a minimum of three species in a mixture (at least one introduced grass and one legume or forb). Excluding fescue, bermudagrass and sericea lespedeza.	30
Planting a minimum of four species in a mixture (at least two introduced grasses and one legume or forb). Excluding fescue, bermudagrass and sericea lespedeza.	40
CP2 Establishment of permanent native grasses.	
Planting a solid stand of one or more native species.	20
Planting a mixed stand of a minimum of four species (at least 2 native grasses and one legume or forb).	40
Planting a mixed stand of a minimum of five species (at least 3 native grasses and one legume or forb).	50
CP3 Tree planting. (general)	
Solid stand of pine/softwood. (> 500 trees per acre)	10
Longleaf pine planted at more than 500 trees per acre.	10
Pine/softwood planted at less than or equal to 500 trees per acre.	20
Pine/softwood planted at less than 500 trees per acre and 15 to 20 percent openings of native herbaceous and/or shrub plantings best suited for wildlife in the area. <u>3</u> /	50
CP3A Hardwood, tree planting.	
Solid stand of non-mast or non-preferred mast producing species .	20
Solid stand of a single preferred mast-producing hardwood species.	40
Mixed stand of hardwood species best suited for wildlife in the area (minimum of 4 species with at least 2 preferred mast producing species).	50
Longleaf pine planted at less than or equal to 500 trees per acre.	50
CP4B Permanent wildlife habitat (corridors), noneasement.	
Mixed stand (minimum of 4 species) of either of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•at least 2 grasses (at least 1 of these must be native) and at least 1 tree, shrub, forb, or legume species best suited for various wildlife species in the area.</li> <li>•at least 2 shrub or tree species and at least 1 native grass, forb, or legume species best suited for various wildlife species in the area. A wildlife plan must be developed with the participant in consultation with the Area Biologist.</li> </ul>	40
Mixed stand (minimum of 5 species) of either of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•at least 2 native grasses and at least 2 tree, shrub, forb, or legume species best suited for various wildlife species in the area.</li> <li>•at least 2 shrub or tree species and at least 2 native grass, forb, or legume species best suited for various wildlife species in the area. A wildlife plan must be developed with the participant in consultation with the Area Biologist.</li> </ul>	50

Practice 1/	Assigned Point Score
CP4D Permanent wildlife habitat, noneasement.	
Mixed stand (minimum of 4 species) of either of the following: •at least 2 grasses (at least 1 of these must be native) and at least 1 tree, shrub, forb, or legume species best suited for various wildlife species in the area. •at least 2 shrub or tree species and at least 1 native grass, forb, or legume species best suited for various wildlife species in the area. A wildlife plan must be developed with the participant in consultation with the Area Biologist.	40
Mixed stand (minimum of 5 species) of either of the following: •at least 2 native grasses and at least 2 tree, shrub, forb, or legume species best suited for various wildlife species in the area. •at least 2 shrub or tree species and at least 2 native grass, forb, or legume species best suited for various wildlife species in the area. A wildlife plan must be developed with the participant in consultation with the Area Biologist.	50
CP10 Vegetative cover – grass - already established.	
Solid stand (greater than 80 percent cover) of one or two species of <u>introduced</u> grasses or perennial legume. 4/	10
Solid stand (greater than 80 percent cover) of one or two species <u>native</u> grass.	20
Mixed stand of a minimum of three species (at least one introduced or native grass and at least one legume or shrub/forb). Less than 80% stand of any one species. Excluding fescue, bermudagrass and sericea lespedeza.	30
Mixed stand of a minimum of four species (at least two introduced or native species and at least one legume or shrub/forb). excluding fescue, bermudagrass and sericea lespedeza.	40
Mixed stand of a minimum of five species (at least three species of <u>native</u> grasses and at least one legume or shrub/forb). Excluding sericea lespedeza.	50
CP11 Vegetative cover – trees – already established.	
Solid stand of pine/softwood (> 300 trees per acre).	10
Solid stand of non-mast or non-preferred mast producing hardwood species.	20
Pine/softwood established or thinned to less than or equal to 300 trees per acre.	30
Solid stand of a single hard-mast producing species.	40
Pine/softwood established with or thinned to less than 300 trees per acre, 15 to 20 percent openings of native herbaceous and/or shrub plantings best suited for wildlife in the area. 3/ Mixed hardwoods established (at least 2 species of hard-mast producing species), or longleaf pine (less than or equal to 500 trees per acre.)	50
CP12 Wildlife food plot.	
Wildlife food plots are small non-cost-shared plantings in a larger area. Wildlife food plots will never be the predominate cover.	NA
CP19 Alley cropping.	
Score must be an average of the herbaceous planting, According to CP1 or CP2, and tree planting area, according to CP3 scores.	0-50

Subfactor N1a-  
Cover Matrix

Mississippi CP/Cover Matrix  
(continued)

CP23 Wetland restoration (applicable to cropped wetlands and prior converted wetlands when the functions and values of the wetland ecosystem will be restored).	
Wetland hydrology restored, as determined technically feasible, to at least 1 cropped wetland or prior converted wetland on the acreage offered and recommended vegetative cover established in the field.	30
Wetland hydrology restored, as determined technically feasible, to all cropped wetlands and all prior converted wetlands on the acreage offered and recommended vegetative cover established in the field.	50

- 1/ Cover established must accomplish the purpose of the practice.
- 2/ Bermudagrass and fescue are allowed only for the 10-point category of CP1 (new offerings). These species are not recommended cover for wildlife.
- 3/ Natural regeneration of native vegetation with required maintenance may be permitted within open areas if it is consistent with NRCS technical standards and has been concurred with by State FWS or USFWS. Cost share is not authorized for natural regeneration.
- 4/ CP10 may have an existing cover of introduced grasses or perennial legume. Bermudagrass, fescue and sericia lespedeza are allowed only for the 10-point category. These species are not recommended cover for wildlife.

NOTES:

1. To receive credit for additional species, at least 10% of the mixed stand must be composed of each additional species in CP1, CP2, CP4B, CP4D, CP10, openings of CP3, CP3A, and CP11 (Mixtures – by planting rate or Area – by percentage of field).
2. Thinning for CP11 must be done within the first three years of the new contract (CRP-1 effective date). Thinning to less than 200 trees per acre requires area conservationist's approval.
3. The structural practices CP6 and CP7 are authorized for use with signup 20 offers, however, they are not to be scored when used for signup 20 offers because they:
  - are used to supplement the practices in this subparagraph.
  - comprise very small acreage.
  - generally have no significant effects on wildlife.
4. Producers with an existing stand of CRP cover planted to an appropriate cover may be awarded the applicable wildlife cover score provided that NRCS can verify, by an on-site visit prior to transmission of offer, data that the approved cover for the point score is present. NRCS must document in writing that an approved cover is present. If on-site investigation prior to offer submission is not completed, the producer must agree to enhance the cover to receive the applicable points for the practice.
5. Use the CRP Wildlife Cover Benefits Scoring Determination Worksheet (**SEE Page 8 of CRP-3**) to calculate the points scored for Subfactor N1a.

TABLE 1  
CRP - ELIGIBLE PLANTS  
MISSISSIPPI

INTRODUCED GRASSES (CP1, CP10, CP4B-40 PTS. & CP4D-40 PTS.)

Species	Minimum Units Per Acre 1/	Planting Dates
*Bahiagrass	15-25 Lbs.	Mar-May <u>2/</u>
Dallisgrass	15 Lbs. PLS <u>3/</u>	Feb-May <u>2/</u>
Johnsongrass (CP1 & CP10 ONLY)	20 Lbs. PLS	Apr-May
Tall Fescue (10 PTS. ONLY – CP1 & CP10)	20 Lbs.	Sep-Nov
*Common		
Bermudagrass (10 PTS. ONLY – CP1 & CP10)	5 Lbs.	Mar-May
**Other:		

NATIVE GRASSES (CP2, CP4B, CP4D, CP10, OPENINGS OF CP3 & CP11)

Species	Minimum Units Per Acre 1/	Planting Dates
Big Bluestem	5.5 Lbs. PLS	Apr-May
Indiangrass	4.5 Lbs. PLS	Apr-May
Switchgrass	4.5 Lbs. PLS	Apr-May
Little Bluestem	5.0 Lbs. PLS	Apr-May
Broomsedge	CP10 only	
**Other:		

Note - The Mississippi Planting Guide, June 1999, recommends that minimum planting rates for native grass species should be doubled for critical area plantings.

LEGUMES (CP1, CP2, CP4B, CP4D, CP10, OPENINGS OF CP3 & CP11)

Species 4/	Minimum Units Per Acre 1/	Planting Dates
Sericea Lespedeza (10 PTS. ONLY – CP10)	30 Lbs. <u>5/</u>	Mar-Apr
White Clover	3 Lbs.	Sep-Oct 15
Red Clover	8-12 Lbs.	Sep-Oct 15
Ball Clover	3 Lbs.	Sep-Oct 15
Lespedeza, Common	30 Lbs.	Mar-Apr
Lespedeza, Kobe	30 Lbs.	Mar-Apr
Arrowleaf Clover	10-15 Lbs. <u>5/</u>	Sep-Oct 15
Crimson Clover	20 Lbs.	Sep-Oct 15
Hairy or Wooly Pod Vetch	30 Lbs.	Sep-Oct
Wild Winter Peas (Rough Peas)	30 Lbs.	Sep-Oct
Partridge Pea	6 Lbs.	Feb-May 15
Beggarweed	10-15 Lbs.	Apr-May
Joint Vetch	20 Lbs.	Mar-June
**Other:		

TABLE 1  
CRP - ELIGIBLE PLANTS  
MISSISSIPPI  
(Continued)  
RECOMMENDED WILDLIFE MIXTURES

North of Interstate 20

Species	PLS/Ac 3/	Species	PLS/Ac 3/	Species	PLS/Ac 3/
Alamo Switchgrass	2.25	Lometa Indiangrass	2.25	Kaw Big Bluestem	2.75
Lometa Indiangrass	1.0	Alamo Switchgrass	1.0	Lometa Indiangrass	1.0
Aldous Little Bluestem	0.5	Kaw Big Bluestem	0.5	Alamo Switchgrass	0.5
Partridge Pea	1.0	Partridge Pea	1.0	Partridge Pea	1.0
<b>Total Mix</b>	<b>4.75</b>	<b>Total Mix</b>	<b>4.75</b>	<b>Total Mix</b>	<b>5.25</b>

  

Alamo Switchgrass	2.25	Alamo Switchgrass	2.25	Alamo Switchgrass	2.25
Lometa Indiangrass	1.0	Lometa Indiangrass	1.0	Kaw Big Bluestem	1.0
Aldous Little Bluestem	0.5	Partridge Pea	0.5	Lometa Indiangrass	0.5
Kobe Lespedeza	3.0	Kobe Lespedeza	1.5	Partridge Pea	0.5
<b>Total Mix</b>	<b>6.75</b>	<b>Total Mix</b>	<b>5.25</b>	Kobe Lespedeza	1.5
				<b>Total Mix</b>	<b>5.75</b>

  

Alamo Switchgrass	1.0	3/ Pounds of Pure Live Seed (PLS) planted per acre. Note: Seeding Rates for Partridge Pea and Kobe Lespedeza are listed in pounds per acre not pls.			
Lometa Indiangrass	1.0				
Kaw Big Bluestem	1.0				
Aldous Little Bluestem	1.0				
Partridge Pea	0.5				
Kobe Lespedeza	1.5				
<b>Total Mix</b>	<b>6.0</b>				

South of Interstate 20

Species	PLS/Ac 3/	Species	PLS/Ac 3/
Alamo Switchgrass	2.25	Lometa Indiangrass	2.25
Lometa Indiangrass	1.0	Alamo Switchgrass	1.0
Kobe Lespedeza	1.5	Partridge Pea	0.5
Partridge Pea	0.5	Kobe Lespedeza	1.5
<b>Total Mix</b>	<b>5.25</b>	<b>Total Mix</b>	<b>5.25</b>

Source:

Mississippi Planting Guide, June 1999  
USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Jamie L. Whitten Plant Materials Center, Coffeeville, MS  
Ecological Sciences, Jackson, MS

TABLE 1  
CRP - ELIGIBLE PLANTS  
MISSISSIPPI  
(Continued)

SHRUBS 6/ (CP1, CP2, CP4B, CP4D, CP10, OPENINGS OF CP3 & CP11)  
(Planting Dates for Plants: November 15 - March 15)

Species	Spacing***	Approximate Plants/Acre
American Beautyberry	6' x 6'	1200
American Plum	10' x 10'	450
Blueberry (native sp.)	6' x 6'	1200
Chokeberry (black and red)	8' x 8'	700
Crabapple	10' x 10'	450
Deerberry	6' x 6'	1200
Dogwood	8' x 8'	700
Eastern Red Cedar	10' x 10'	450
Elderberry	8' x 8'	700
Golden Chinquapin	10' x 10'	450
Hawthorn	10' x 10'	450
Holly (native sp.)	8' x 8'	700
Holly (deciduous)	8' x 8'	700
Huckleberry	6' x 6'	1200
Pawpaw	8' x 8'	700
Sassafras	10' x 10'	450
Serviceberry	8' x 8'	700
Shrub Lespedeza	3' x 3'	4800
Bicolor		
Japonica		
Thunbergii		
Sumac	8' x 8'	700
Viburnum	6' x 6'	1200
Wild Plum (Chickasaw & other)	8' x 8'	700

\*\*Other:

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TABLE 1  
CRP - ELIGIBLE PLANTS  
MISSISSIPPI  
(Continued)

FORBS 6/ (CP1, CP2, CP4B, CP4D, CP10, OPENINGS OF CP3 & CP11)  
(Planting Dates for Plants: November 15 - March 15)

Species	Spacing***	Approximate Plants/Acre
Blackberry (native sp.)	6' x 6'	1200
Japanese Honeysuckle	6' x 6'	1200
Pokeweed	6' x 6'	1200
Wild Grapes	10' x 10'	450

\*\*Other:

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1/ Use 60% of recommended rate when planting a mixture of 2-3 species.  
Use 30% of recommended rate when planting a mixture of 4 or more species.  
Where seeding ranges are given, use the low seeding rate when drilled. Use higher rates when broadcast. Also low seeding rates or a small reduction in general agricultural seeding rates may be desirable for wildlife use.

2/ If planted in a mixture with a legume, plant from September to October.

3/ PLS - Pure Live Seed

4/ Inoculate legumes with the appropriate inoculate for the species.

5/ Seed should be scarified.

6/ Shrubs/forbs to be planted in corridors/strips to comprise at least 10% of the area.

\*This plant has an invasive nature. Caution should be exercised when using this plant.

\*\*Due to the wide variety of geographical areas and plants species which might be suitable for wildlife this listing may be incomplete. However, other species added must be approved by area/state biologists before they can be used.

\*\*\*Spacing may vary slightly depending on intended wildlife uses (cover vs. food), consult with area biologist.



TABLE 2  
CRP - ELIGIBLE TREES  
MISSISSIPPI  
(CP3, CP3A, CP4B, CP4D, CP11)

Pine

Loblolly  
Longleaf  
Slash

Hardwood

Preferred Mast Producing

Cherrybark Oak <sup>1</sup>  
Chinkapin Oak <sup>1</sup>  
Northern Red Oak <sup>1</sup>  
Nuttall Oak <sup>1</sup>  
Overcup Oak <sup>1</sup>  
Pin Oak <sup>1</sup>  
Sawtooth Oak <sup>1</sup>  
Scarlet Oak <sup>1</sup>  
Shumard Oak <sup>1</sup>  
Southern Red Oak <sup>1</sup>  
Swamp White Oak <sup>1</sup>  
Swamp Chestnut Oak <sup>1</sup>  
Water Oak <sup>1</sup>  
White Oak <sup>1</sup>  
Willow Oak <sup>1</sup>  
Black Cherry <sup>1</sup>  
Black Walnut <sup>1</sup>  
Black Gum <sup>2</sup>  
Chinese Chestnut <sup>1</sup>  
Dogwood <sup>2</sup>  
Hackberry (Sugarberry) <sup>2</sup>  
Hickory <sup>1</sup>  
Mulberry <sup>2</sup>  
Pecan <sup>1&3</sup>  
Persimmon <sup>2</sup>  
Plum <sup>2</sup>  
Sassafras <sup>2</sup>  
Wild Crabapple <sup>2</sup>

Non Preferred

Basswood  
Cottonwood  
Cypress  
Green Ash  
Sweet Gum  
Sycamore  
Yellow Poplar

<sup>1</sup> - Hard Mast Producer

<sup>2</sup> - Soft Mast Producer

<sup>3</sup> - No commercial varieties of pecans planted in an orchard fashion are allowed under CRP.